TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

ESTABLISHED 1892

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FOREIGN AID CUT A BILLION

The House Foreign Affairs committee, in what might have been one of the first of a series of moves, and counter-moves, to determine the size of this year's foreign aid appropriation, recently voted to cut one billion dollars from the $4.9 billion foreign aid program requested by President Eisenhower.

The President requested three billion dollars in the form of military aid to our allies and the House Foreign Affairs committee, headed by chairman James P. Richards, of South Carolina, voted to whack this figure to two billion dollars. Richards said that two billion dollars would be plenty of money for foreign miliary aid, since there was a five billion dollar carry-over from past appropriations and that would provide "ample money."

The House committee has already cut more than a hundred million dollars from the economic aid program, which totaled some $1.9 billions as requested by the Administration.

The fact that the House Foreign Affairs committee trimmed the military aid section of the bill by a billion dollars, thus hanging a major reduction on the Administration request in its first step through Congress, seems to indicate that President Eisenhower will not get his $4.9 billion foreign aid program approved. While the Senate may attempt to restore some of this money, it is just as likely that the Senate Appropriations committee, or the membership of either house, might act to cut the bill even further.

The three billion dollar figure for military aid to our allies, is high, in our opinion, and we hope the House cut sticks.

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RAGS - TO - RICHES STORY

The Pittsburg Pirates, of the National League, are now playing the role of a rags-to-riches baseball club, supposed to go nowhere, but this year well up in the standings.

It is always good to see an underdog come through in the world of sports. In the case of the Pirates, a really down and out underdog—they finished last in 1955— is making the leaders take notice, with a new manager, new confidence, and plenty of hustle.

The Pirates have graced the cellar of the National Leaugе for so many years they have become the butt of many baseball jibes. In the history of Major League baseball, few teams have ever finished last one year and first the following year.

We do not expect the Pirates to do so in 1956. However, the Pittsburgh club has already proved that an underdog team can come through, and that story-book finishes are still possible in baseball.

So surprising has been the play of the young Pirates that the management of the club has taken the unusual step of cancelling at least one player's contract and giving him a higher-paying contract in the middle of the season.

The National League pennant will probably be won by Milwaukee, Brooklyn or St. Louis, but the Pirates have a fighting chance, and if they come through, their success story will be one of the greatest dramas in the history of baseball.

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FATHER'S DAY, 1956

Father's Day originated in various parts of the United States at various times, but it was probably the suggestion of Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, of Spokane, Washington, which is most generally accepted as the origin of Father's Day.

Mrs. Dodd first thought of a special day to be set aside for honoring fathers in 1909, as a tribute to her own father, who had reared a family of children after the death of his wife.

She made the proposal to the Ministerial Association of Spokane, and the association approved the proposal, after it was submitted to members, and the first celebration of the day was held in Spokane in 1910. Observance of the day did not spread rapidly over the country, and, in various sections of the nation, after 1910, the idea was thought to have been originated. It wasn't until 1934 that Father's Day became a nationally-observed day, on the third Sunday in June.

The official flower for the day is the rose. A red rose is worn in honor of a living father and a white rose in honor of a deceased one.

It is not necessary for children, and mother, to lavish expensive gifts on Father, on Father's Day. The spirit of the day is one of honoring the head of the household, and the gifts which are hand-made, or which represent the labor or efforts of the giver, represent the true spirit of the Father's Day observance.

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If you have a friend who agrees with everything you say, he is either stupid or insincere.

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One of the best ways for sick people to get well is to become convinced that they can get well.

Advertisement

From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Just the Facts, Ma'am!

Having a red-hot crime wave in town, Specs McGuire and Buck Hanson were caught taking money out of parking meters—*again*. I was at Police Headquarters when a nice old lady rushed in to report them.

"It was dark but I saw their faces in the flashlight beam," she said breathlessly. "You can't trust anybody these days!"

She got flustered when Chief Benson explained that Specs and Buck are *authorized* collectors—working nights after their regular jobs. "Have to get 'em uniforms," said Benson. "Third time they've been turned in!"

From where I sit, we ought to guard against accusing anyone of being "wrong" just because that's the way it *looks* to us. For instance, I've heard people talk against a neighbor because they didn't approve of his choice of beverage! (They liked tea, or something, while he preferred a glass of beer.) Be sure you have a case before you lay down the law.

Joe Marsh

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FIGHT EROSION ON YOUR LAND

For a long time now, experts of the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture have been calling attention to the losses suffered through soil erosion in this country.

Sometime ago, Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, then Chief of the Service, told a House Committee that about 100,000,000 acres of crop land, some of the finest in the nation, has been "completely finished" as a result of soil erosion. He then estimated the annual direct cost of soil erosion to farmers alone, not counting damage to reservoirs, stream channels, irrigation ditches, highways and railways, at approximately $400,000,000.

Such information has been read time and again by the farmers of Appomattox County and others throughout the nation. It undoubtedly attracted their attention and some excellent efforts have been made, in varying sections of the country, to meet the peril and arrest the erosion that washes away so much of the best of our land.

We take this occasion to call the attention of Appomattox County farmers to the fact that fighting soil erosion is a continuing task. Like some of the other things that menace mankind, the time to start the war on erosion is when it begins, and to keep up a continuing fight to see that it does not happen again.

Washington Notes

FARM PRICES

On June 1st, the prices of farm products, jumping eight per cent in the last five months, recovered to the levels of a year ago. A three per cent increase between April and mid-May—the largest for a single month in some time—was reported recently by the Agriculture Department. However, the mid-May level was still 22 per cent below the high point reached in February, 1951.

UNTREATED T. B. CASES

Dr. Edward X. Mikol, tuberculosis expert, estimates that at last 80,000 persons in this country are ill with tuberculosis but are not in hospitals for treatment. He cited a U. S. Public Health Service report showing that 45 per cent of T. B. patients are not hospitalized, 87 per cent of which are in advanced stages of the disease and half of which are 45 or older.

VA HOME LOANS

According to Veterans Administration figures, approximately 5,000,000 World War II veterans are in the home-buying age group but have not yet used their GI loan privileges for home mortgages. Unless Congress extends the present VA home loan program, which is scheduled to end next year, thousands of veterans will lose their rights to GI assistance.

RETAIL FAILURES

Retail trade failures in the first three months of this year rose to 1,618, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year.

THE ECONOMY

The present month of June is expected to hold some unusual economic uncertainties. The labor market presents two sides. Thousands of employes this month will receive their first taste of the new layoff pay plan, while thousands of employers are eagerly bidding for the services of the new graduates from the nation's colleges and universities. Retail business, in somewhat of a slump, is expected to be boosted somewhat by sales of gifts for Father's Day on the 17th. Presents for the annual crop of June brides are also expected to lift the total of retail sales for the month.

U. S. PAY ROLL

The number of civilian employees of the Federal Government increased in April for the fourth consecutive month, according to Senator Byrd. The increase from March to April was 6,954, bringing the total to 2,359,611. The biggest increase occurred in the Agriculture, Interior, Commerce Departments, and in the Air Force.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT

The Postoffice Department is losing at a $1,000-a-minute rate, according to the House Post Office Committee, which is asking for higher postal rates to make up the deficit. The average annual deficit of the Department is about $460,000,000, according to the committee, which has approved a bill to raise the rates on first, second and third class mail.

FOOD PRESERVATION

Industrial scientists are busy looking to the atom and miracle drugs in their search for ways to prolong the edible life of food. While housewives are intensely interested in the subject, research is proceeding particularly with the armed forces in mind, since food storage and transportation is one of the Army's greatest problems.

GOLDEN GLEAMS

Even the best pilots are willing to take advice from their passengers in bad weather. —Cicero.

A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice. —E. W. Howe.

Sometimes a fool makes a good suggestion. —Nicolas Boileau.

Advice is less necessary to the wise man than to fools, for the wise derive most advantage from it. —Guicciardini.

Advice is seldom welcome; those who want it the most always welcome it the least. —Lord Chesterfield.

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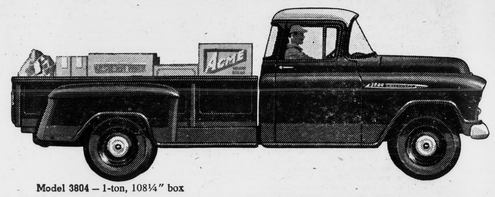

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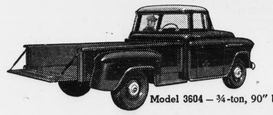

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Comment On Sports

By Pete Fritchie

Football

Washington.- The myth that college football — in most cases— is an amateur sport is about to be laid for good. Sensational disclosures in the Big Ten, the Pacific Coast, and in others—added to irregularities of late in the South's conference—make up a pretty complete picture of pro football on the college level.

This is no surprise to the various coaches. They have long known that alumni groups, "friends" and even athletic aids and coaches themselves, have been helping college football players far more than conference rules, in most cases, permit.

It is only that, it is common knowledge that the "grant-in-aid" system amounts to something like the system used by the Major Leagues to sign high school baseball players. A coach in a conference signs a boy, or gets an agreement that he will come to his college.

But by conference agreement (among the coaches in the conference) the boy cannot be tampered with by other colleges. But to get around this agreement some smart college coach who was angling for the lad who signed to go to another college in the same conference, a competing team each fall, calls in outside help.

He calls friendly coach in a nearby (or faraway) conference, if the player is impressive enough) and tells him to send someone over to offer the boy concerned more to go to another college. The coach called can come into the conference area and not worry about the agreement between conference members. He offers the lad more benefits and off he goes—out of the conference.

That is the way it has been working for many years. What is needed is some national agreement — among all conferences— that when a boy is signed, he is signed. And yet the boy may feel he is being discriminated against, under such a system. The alternative is more and more professionalism in college football.

The stakes are going up each year. Football teams are costing more and more money. There are only so many top high school players a year and the price on their head is increasing steadily. The college that bids the most—in most cases—gets the talent. It is just that simple—and commercial.

How can football be brought back to its amateur status? That is a hot question, and there is no answer generally agreed upon. But one step would be to end the steadily increasing pay-offs which are illegal under college or conference rules, to players at the various colleges.

A general agreement among all the nation's major conferences ought to be reached, too — to end the practice of unethical raiding by coaches from distant conferences, as a result of tips from friendly coaches. These two steps might start the ball bouncing in the other direction, even though the problem is too big to solve in any simple manner.

SCHOOL BURNS; VACATION EARLY

Pomona, Calif.- About 1500 students began their summer vacation about a month early because fire recently destroyed the city's only high school. The loss was estimated by school officials at $500,000.

COST VA. $1,426,000 FOR SNOW, ICE ON ROADS

Snow removal and ice control on the state's primary and secondary roads during the past winter cost $1,426,579, the Virginia Department of Highways reported yesterday.

A cost summary just completed by the Department's maintenance engineers showed that expenditures to keep primary and secondary highways clear in the eight construction districts were:

Bristol $375,628; Salem $194,078; Lynchburg $110,838; Richmond $83,136; Suffolk $27,571; Fredericksburg $83252; Culpeper $255,773; and Staunton $296,248.

The total, which includes $1,071,060 spent on the primary system roads and $355,519 spent on secondary highways, is $319,499 less than the cost of snow removal and ice control during the winter of 1954-55 when more districts were hit by bad weather.

The largest cost item in the snow removal and ice control work last winter was $600,962 for 5,532 tons of calcium chloride, 15,606 tons of sodium chloride, and 50,862 tons of abrasives. The next largest expense item was labor, which amounted to $522,613.

Cost of snow and ice control work is set up as a regular budget maintenance activity by the Department.

Alcoa plans $600,000,000 expansion in five years.

BOY CAUGHT IN WRINGER

Baltimore, Md.- It required the help of police to free the arm of Jay Simmon, 5, from a washing-machine wringer. The accident occurred when the lad, playing around the washer, acidentally got his hand caught in the wringer. Police had to break the wringer to free the child.

Richard D. Robinson

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*Based on estimates by education officials in Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, Maryland and Kentucky.

**This survey showed that in the average community, 100 new industrial workers result in an additional 74 workers in other businesses in the community.

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